1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak RY4

THE KORYAK.

INTRODUCTORY.

128 IN the winter of 1900-01 I carried on ethnological studies among the Koryak, my work being part of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition. The present publication contains the results of my inquiries. In working up my collections, I have treated religion and the myths first for the following reasons. When I returned from my field-work to New York, I found my friend, Mr. W. G. Bogoras, who had taken part in the Siberian Expedition, at work on the material culture of the Chukchee, whom he had studied for several years.

The Chukchee are related to the Koryak, and the conditions of life among these two tribes are very much alike. To avoid unnecessary repetition, it seemed desirable to defer the detailed description of the material culture of the Koryak until after the completion of Mr. Bogoras's work, and to restrict my description to features in regard to which the Koryak differ from the Chukchee. There is also a considerable similarity in the religion and mythology of both tribes, who are not only in the same stage of development of religious thought, but, with few exceptions, believe in the same supernatural powers, have the same kinds of festivals, religious ceremonies, and sacrifices, and possess similar myths. Since a considerable number of myths and some material relating to the beliefs of the Chukchee have been published by Mr. Bogoras,[1] I have been able to treat from a comparative point of view the beliefs and myths of the Koryak.

●121 It may be in place to point out here that the material relating to the Koryak was gathered by me among the Maritime Koryak along the bays of Penshina and Gishiga on the Sea of Okhotsk, and among the Reindeer Koryak of the peninsula of Taigonos, and throughout the interior of the Gishiga district. I did not visit the Koryak of northern Kamchatka and of the coast of the Pacific Ocean, since I had only one winter at my disposal to make a study of this tribe, with which I first came in contact on the Jesup Expedition.

Since I had to leave the Koryak country in the latter half of the summer of 1901 to visit the Kolyma River, I thought it best in the winter of 1900-01

[1] See list of authorities quoted, p. 3.

1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak RY4

121 to confine my studies of the Koryak to a more or less fixed locality, thus avoiding unnecessary waste of time in making long and frequent trips over their vast territory.

This method of investigation proved advantageous both in gathering information and in making collections. It should be said, however, that I had opportunities to meet some individuals from the regions which I had not visited, and I utilized them as much as I could in obtaining information. Besides, the localities which I investigated are more interesting than other parts of the Koryak region in having the best preserved ancient customs and traditions.

The photographs reproduced here were taken by Mrs. Jochelson and myself, and the drawings were made by Mr. Rudolf Weber.

22:Barrett-Hamilton and Jones--280-281 N-2 (1897) 1898 Koryak
116, 121

"Few parts of the North Pacific coast-line are less known to geographers or navigators than the north-eastern seaboard of Kamchatka, much of which is still indicated on our Admiralty charts merely by a dotted line. It is therefore hoped that the following notes and photographs, taken on a visit recently made to the island of Karaginski and the neighbouring mainland at Karaga, may be of interest, the latter especially, since they give some insight into the life and customs of the people of Upper Kamchataka. [281]

The visit, having been made in performance of the duties of one of the writers while employed in connection with the Bering Sea Mission, was necessarily a very short one, and even the present meagre notes could never have been collected had it not been for the willing help afforded by the captain and officers of H. M. S. Linnet.

The island of Karaginski is, from its position, less likely to be visited by scientific explorers than either the more southern or the more northern parts of Kamchataka, since expeditions returning from the north are usually in too great a hurry on their homeward journey to be able to stop at an intermediate locality, while it lies far to the north of the track of ordinary visitors to Kamchatka. Hence it is that, as far as we can ascertain, the island has never been touched at by any scientific expedition."